

MENTOR

UNITED

WEEKLY UPDATE

METHODIST

CHURCH

JANUARY 14, 2024

8600 MENTOR AVE

MENTOR OH 44060

MENTORUMC.ORG

440.255.3496

Worship with us in-person or online:
Mentorumc.org, Facebook, and Youtube

Worship Schedule

9 & 11 AM Modern

9 & 11 AM Traditional



STAFF CELEBRATION - JANUARY 14 AFTER SERVICES

PASTOR'S LETTER

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God - Micah 6:8b

This passage from the prophet Micah was written about 800 years before Jesus was born. That's almost 3,000 years ago! Yet, its message and truth hold true still today. God calls us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Of these three, most Christians are least familiar with justice. What is your understanding of justice? What does it look like to "do justice"? What does the Bible say about justice? How is justice part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

These questions and others are at the heart of our new worship series that starts this Sunday, January 14—"Justice or Just Us?" I invite you to embrace this opportunity to explore the meaning of justice as it pertains to our call as Christians. We will begin with Luke 10:25-37 where "an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus." He asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him "What is written in the law?" The man responds, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." In Matthew's version of this passage, a lawyer asks Jesus, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" and Jesus recites the law "Love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself."

I love these passages. Whenever I find myself feeling stuck in my faith, challenged by difficult questions, seeking clarity around current social issues, faced with the-lesser-of-two-evils kinds of decisions, I find my bearings from these passages. I take a deep breath and remind myself *love God, love your neighbor* and I feel a sense of grace and assurance. But then, I hear God calling me back to justice, Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly. It turns out that part of loving our neighbors is doing justice!

In his book, *Covenant Discipleship*, David Lowes Watson defines acts of piety as ways of loving God and acts of mercy as ways of loving neighbor. He goes on to emphasize the importance of engaging in both personal and public acts of piety and mercy. For example, when we gather as the body of Christ to worship, we are engaging in a public act of piety. When we spend time alone praying, we are engaging in a private act of piety. Both of these deepen our love for God. Likewise, when we feed the hungry, we are engaging in a personal act of mercy which Watson calls an act of compassion. A public act of mercy, Watson calls an act of justice. Acts of justice often seek to address the root causes of suffering in our world. In other words, we are called to not only feed the hungry, but also to confront the parts of our system that contribute to people not being able to provide for themselves in the first place.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we as a nation celebrate every January 15, gave his life seeking to confront the evils of racism and racial injustice. His commitment to non-violence protest as a way to change racial laws in our government system is a notable example of our call as Christians to "do justice".

I hope this series will help me personally and all of us collectively as a church, grow in our commitment to do justice.

In ministry together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized and cursive.

PASTOR STEVE

Care CONGREGATIONAL

In our prayers today & in your personal prayer time, please remember the following:

Members admitted to Rehab,

Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

The Enclave - Kay Disbro, Delores Tackett,

Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler

Salida Woods - Doris Sturm

University Manor - Virginia Gilman

Parker Place - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons

Danbury Senior Living - Kathryn Bevacqua

Tapestry - Gloria McFeely

Symphony of Mentor - Lorraine Ahlstrom

Breckenridge/Fairmount - Patricia Laubscher

Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Luke Sanvido,

David Fell, Norma Ickes, Ruthie Hobart,

Mike Cosmo, Bob Williams, Mary Lou Haines,

David Smith, Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink



Mission Trip 2024



Need to Know

Youversion

<https://bible.com/events/49194816>

Learn more about Sunday's scriptures and worship by visiting this link each week.

Offering Envelopes

2024 Offering envelopes are available in the Information Hub. Look for yours this Sunday after service!



New Staff Celebration

Join us on January 14th after services for a gathering in the Gallery to meet & welcome our new staff members, Briyant Hines, Youth Director, and Justin Mackey, Director of Modern Worship.

We look forward to furthering our mission of leading all onto a path of Christ centered discipleship with them. There will be cards available this Sunday during services for you to write a brief welcome message for each! You can drop the cards off in the office, mail them in, or email a message to info@mentorumc.org.

Office Closure

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Admin Council

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM.

Church Records Update

Help us update our records! There are yellow forms in the Info Hub & Church office for you or your family to fill out in order to provide the most up to date info about you. You can also [fill out online](#).

Hymn Challenge

Pastor Steve invites you to join him in reading one hymn from the United Methodist Hymnal every day this year. To participate, there are two requirements: 1. Read one hymn a day from the UMH, in order beginning to end. 2. Be part of a group text with other participants. Pastor Steve will text the group approximately once a week as a way to check in and share insights. Any participant is welcome to text the group a short thought from the hymn for that day. Participants may leave the group at any time by letting Pastor Steve know. Email Pastor Steve for details if you are interested: sstultzcostello@mentorumc.org

Stewardship Update 2024

Thank you to all who responded to Mentor United Methodist Church's Stewardship campaign for 2024. As of this date, we have received 236 commitments totaling a little over \$608,188 to the operating budget and \$57,144 toward In tHis House. **Still, we are short of our goal of \$700,000.**

There has been no response from over 600 mailings to those that have attended, given, or participated here at MUMC during the last two years. **Due to this, the church will need to see an increase in general giving in 2024 to meet our financial obligations.**

If you have not yet made a financial commitment for 2024, you may still do so. Contact Stephanie Lee, our financial secretary, in the church office. 440.255.3496 or slee@mentorumc.org.

Mentor United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered church blessed with a servant-heart oriented congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Rich Elwell
Jack Oliver

Plarn Mats

MUMC will start hand weaving sleeping mats out of plarn (plastic yarn) to distribute to the homeless community in Lake County. Donations of plastic grocery bags will be an ongoing need. This is a great activity for all ages. Come check it out in the gallery! If you have any questions please reach out to Katelynn Gurbach 440-223-9250

Food Ministry

We are in need of items for our next distribution on January 15-16th. We feed numerous families with our ongoing distributions.

Urgently needed items:

- Spaghetti noodles
- Baked beans
- Kidney beans
- Instant oatmeal
- Canned diced tomatoes

Items can be dropped off in the Community Center.

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is on Tuesday, January 16th. [Sign up online](#) or visit the Information Hub.

More Than A Meal

Volunteer for Saturday, January 27th for MTAM. [Click here!](#) Volunteers need to arrive at 4 PM. Doors open at 5 and food is served at 5:30.

What's Your M.O.?

Mission Opportunities

Hope Chest

Thank you for the care & support you have extended to us in 2023! Many individuals and families have benefited from your generosity. We will begin taking donations again in **February**.

Meals for Pastor Ivy

You can sign up to make or buy meals and deliver them to Pastor Ivy's house by visiting [this link](#) or our website. We continue to pray for and support her during her husband's recovery of his recent stroke.

Caring Servants

We are seeking people to add to our visitation list. Caring Servants help provide connectivity to our church to those who are no longer physically able to be present in church. Visits, calls, cards, deliveries, and other support are provided. If you know of anyone (any member) who can benefit from this interaction, please call the church office at 440-255-3496.



Catalyst Ministry

Each week we'll share something you may not know about the MUMC x Catalyst Ministry connection. To read last week's, check out the Dec 10th Weekly Update or visit our [missions page](#).

➡ Our MUWF does a great deal to help the people of Woodlawn Homes. They purchase coats and boots for children in need each winter. They also help provide baskets of laundry detergent, cleaning detergent and other household needs in the Spring to the residents. And they sponsor social events for the children and families at the Woodlawn Homes' Community Center throughout the year. Opportunities for these events will be posted in the Weekly Update and church website.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Children & Family Ministries

www.mentorumc.org/children

Sunday Morning Kids

9:00 & 11:00 AM at MUMC for all services. Join us for our current curriculum, "Celebrate Wonder".

- [Check-In Instruction Video](#)
- Ages 0-2 and 3-4 sign in at the Early Childhood Area before service
- Grades K-5 will begin in worship with their families and then be dismissed to the Education Wing.

Sunday Morning Signup

Mentor United Methodist Church's mission is to lead all onto a path of Christ-centered discipleship. Here is a great place to do just that! [Click here for WINTER leader signup](#). There are spots for various ages/levels, so check out what section works for you:)

"Worship one, serve one!"

Child & Caregiver Class

Age 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 on Weds from 9:15-10:45 AM. Cost is \$60 per 8 week session (prepaid, non-refundable). The winter session has started. Please check out our website for more details.

MOMCo.

MOMco (The Mom Community) will meet on Friday, January 12th at Mentor UMC. For more dates and locations, [check our website](#)

2024-2025 Preschool Reg

Pre-Registration for the 2024-25 school year is open to YOU, our church families. Click here for the: [Pre-Registration Link](#). If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org.



Seedlings Class

Registration is open for children who are 3 as of January 1, 2024 and potty trained. Children who are 2 1/2 AND potty trained are also welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact our State Manager, Brittany Jones at bjones.preschool@mentorumc.org.

Youth MORNINGS

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:50 in the Youth Room to hangout and be in community!



Youth Mixer

Join us for a mixer to meet with our new Youth Director, Briyant Hines. Youth and their parents will meet in the Youth Room on January 21st from 6 PM -8:30 PM.

